



SECTION 2

THE CAMPUS LANDSCAPE VISION

The University of Florida understands that the enhancement of the campus landscape is a critical factor in meeting its goal of becoming a preeminent university.

The Campus Landscape Vision

Quality landscapes provide an important sense of identity for a collegiate community, and the significant role that an inviting landscape plays in the selection process of prospective students and to the health and happiness of enrolled students is well documented. Attractive and comfortable outdoor spaces offer students opportunities to gather and collaborate as well as to sit quietly and be refreshed. Landscapes designed to support study and outdoor learning provide this opportunity at a much lower cost to install and maintain than indoor collaborative spaces, and take advantage of the pleasant climate of the UF campus especially during the fall and spring semesters.

This Landscape Master Plan provides a vision for the UF landscape that will further the University's pursuit of preeminence. The landscape vision addresses five key components of the campus—its edges, its campus core, its roadways, its natural systems, and its landscape elements—and expands upon the best examples of these components present on campus today. Underlying the landscape vision is a recognition of the significant role that large institutions, and especially educational institutions, should play in the 21st century in setting the standards and educating the public about a sustainable approach to the landscape.



A WELCOMING CAMPUS

Campus edges that are attractive and welcoming are critical to UF's communication of an open invitation to the Gainesville community. A welcoming and walkable network of campus spaces adjacent to the urban fabric of Gainesville, along with a network of attractive and legible corridors to campus civic spaces will further reinforce a positive connection between the City and the University to the benefit of both.



A STRENGTHENED CAMPUS CORE

Restricting the use of motorized vehicles within the campus core will be a significant step for UF, transforming the heart of the campus into a pedestrian realm of a size notable among American universities and advancing UF's path to preeminence. The restriction of traffic in the campus core will unite the campus's two signature spaces—the Plaza of the Americas and an enhanced Reitz Union Lawn. Enhancing the impact of these two grand spaces with improvements to adjacent smaller spaces and connections within the campus core will strengthen the image of the campus as a whole.



AN INTERCONNECTED CAMPUS

Interconnecting the 2,000 acres of the campus with attractive and welcoming corridors that are easily navigated by visitors as well as the UF community will communicate a positive image for UF. Ensuring that these corridors accommodate multi-modal transportation—pedestrians, bikes, buses, and autonomous vehicles, in addition to cars—and enhancing the campus's network of shared-use paths are key to demonstrating the University's commitment to sustainable practices.



A CAMPUS CONNECTED TO ITS NATURAL SYSTEMS

UF's 2,000 acres includes an abundance of natural areas featuring its creeks, ponds and wetlands. Enhancing these areas as native habitats will benefit the flora and fauna on campus, and the thoughtful integration of accommodations for passive recreation will benefit the human community and provide opportunities to advance UF's educational mission. The restoration of natural areas along with the incorporation of LID practices into all campus projects will improve water quality and demonstrate to the public best stormwater management practices.



A COHESIVE CAMPUS IMAGE

Guiding the campus's growth and change through the adherence to standards for hardscape, furnishings and plantings is critical to achieving a cohesive campus that reinforces the identity and values of UF. Ensuring that new projects are seamlessly integrated into the existing campus fabric and employ the campus standards in the creation of safe, memorable spaces and connections will be key to advancing the landscape vision for the campus.

